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Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and forty-three States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and

[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

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Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[3] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

Recalling further the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[4] in which the Heads of State or Government noted the progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a protocol, stressed the importance of achieving further substantive progress for the conclusion of a universally acceptable and legally binding instrument designed to strengthen the Convention and reaffirmed the decision of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made by the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[5] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling the Declaration of the informal Ministerial Meeting, held in New York on 23 September 1998, in which the participants and the co-sponsors affirmed their strong support for the Convention and for strengthening the effectiveness and improving the implementation of the Convention,

Bearing in mind the forthcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the signature of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925[6] and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention on 26 March 1975,

1. *Welcomes* the progress achieved so far negotiating a protocol to strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] and reaffirms the decision of the Fourth Review Conference urging the conclusion of the negotiations by

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[2] BWC/CONF III/23, part II.

[3] BWC/SPCONF/1.

[4] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[5] BWC/CONF IV/9, part II.

[6] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

the Ad Hoc Group as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and urging it to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;[7]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention, and reaffirms the call on all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States which have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention, duly noting the forthcoming anniversary of the twenty-fifth year of the entry into force of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties, in this context, to accelerate the negotiations and to redouble their efforts within the Ad Hoc Group to formulate an efficient, cost-effective and practical regime and to seek early resolution of the outstanding issues through renewed flexibility in order to complete the protocol on the basis of consensus at the earliest possible date;

4. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference;[2]

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the 1994 Special Conference,[3] including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group and the special conference that is to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Group, in accordance with its mandate;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

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[7] See BWC/CONF.IV/9.